

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Join the Adventure

"The six and twentieth day of April, about four o'clock in the morning, we descried the land of Virginia; the same day we ent'red into the Bay of Chesupiok directly without any let or hindrance; there we landed and discovered a little away, but we could find nothing worth the speaking of, but fair meadows and goodly tall trees, with such fresh waters running through the woods as I was almost ravished at the first sight thereof."

George Percy, Virginia Colonist



Imagine...

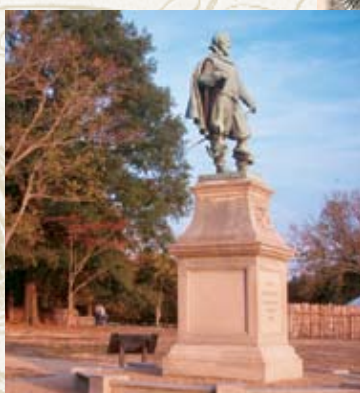
...a world of deep, ancient forests, water teeming with fish, shellfish and blue crab, towns of thatched houses, lodges and palisades, and people of varying tribes traveling the waterways for sustenance and trade. Such was the Chesapeake that Captain John Smith and his fellow travelers encountered while exploring this "goodly bay" and its rivers from 1607 to 1609. Though they failed in their search for the fabled Northwest Passage and did not find silver and gold, their explorations gave the English a foothold in the region. Smith's maps and writings brought transatlantic commerce to this part of the New World. The English presence here forever changed the lives of American Indians and transformed the land and Bay.

America's first national water trail



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail was authorized by Congress in December, 2006. The Trail is being developed with public and private partners to provide visitors the opportunity to retrace Smith's voyages in the Chesapeake Bay. Through firsthand water and land experiences, visitors will gain insight into the world Smith and his crew encountered.

Travelers will learn about the diverse Native American cultures of this region and how various tribes interacted with Smith and influenced English settlement of the Bay. The Trail will allow exploration of the Bay's many hidden treasures – myriad bays and coves, marshes, ribbon-like tributaries, secluded woodlands and fields. Remnant plantations, historic towns and pockets of urbanization dot the modern landscape.



NPS/Starke Jett

A Work in Progress

Although adventure seekers can follow portions of Smith's historic routes today with the proper means, planning for the trail has just begun. Planned water and land excursions will foster new perspectives on the Bay and its diverse ecology. Interpretive materials will guide visitors through the Bay experience, and interactive buoys, interpretive kiosks, and maps and guides will help travelers understand and navigate the rich historical land and seascapes.



Liquid Lessons

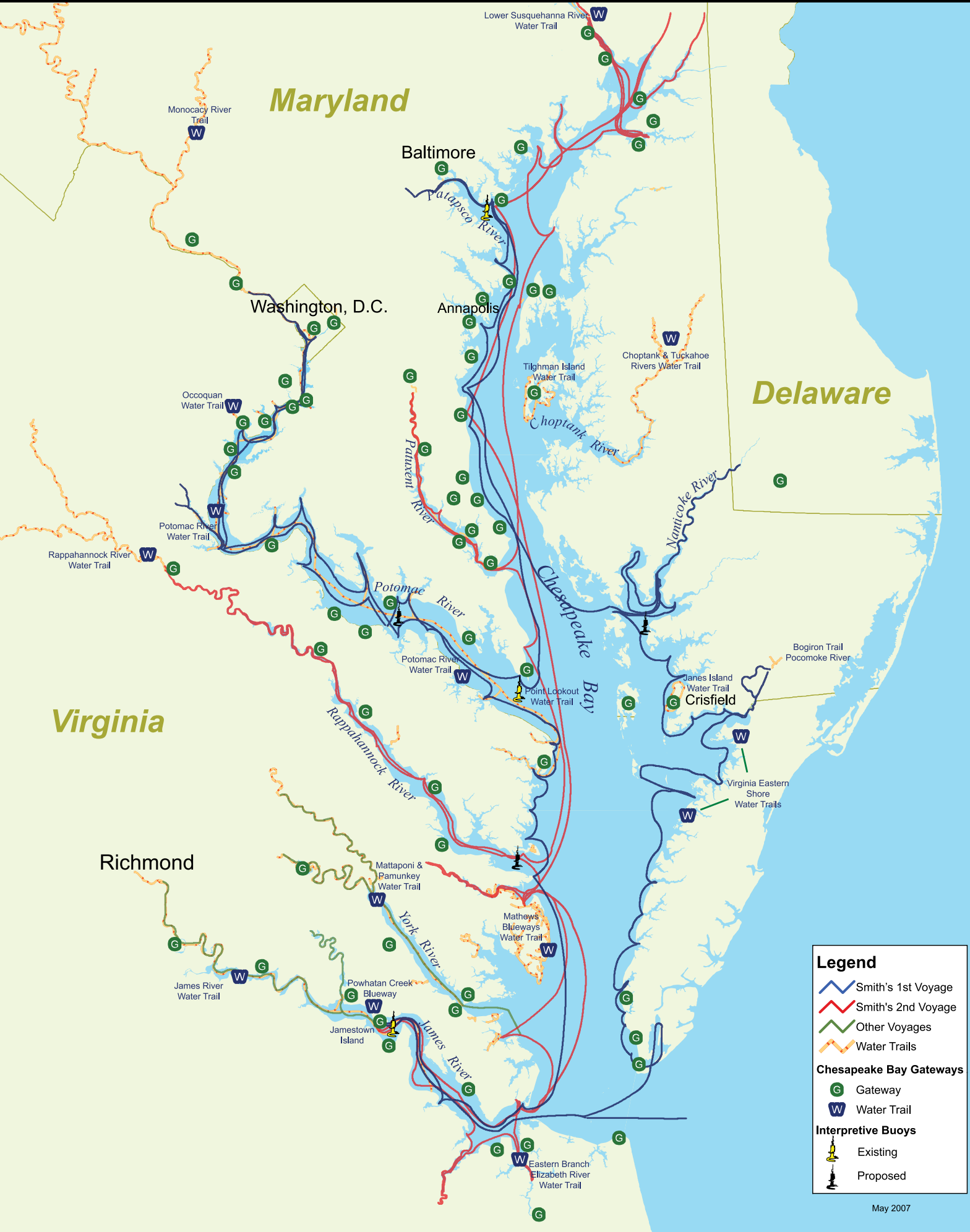
Get Involved

Upon designation, the National Park Service was mandated to create a Comprehensive Management Plan for the trail within the first two years, with the help of public and private organizations and individual citizens. You can join the process by contributing your comments and ideas. To obtain more information on how you can help, or for general information about the Trail, please contact:

National Park Service
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109
Annapolis, MD 21403
410-267-5720
CAJO_Project_Manager@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/cajo

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Find updated information on the trail at www.nps.gov/cajo.

The trail will be administered by the National Park Service in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and watertrails network, a partnership of over 150 parks, refuges, museums, land trails and water trails around the Chesapeake Bay watershed, where people can experience the bay's rich cultural and natural history.

To find out more about the Gateways Network, visit www.baygateways.net.



Follow NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoys

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is leading a partnership to develop "smart buoys" to guide adventurers along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. These state-of-the-art, interactive buoys are accessible via the internet and cellular phones. To access the buoys, visit www.buoybay.org or call 1-877-BUOYBAY.

The Purpose of the Trail

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail commemorates the explorations of Captain Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from 1607-1609, in association with the founding of Jamestown, the first permanent British colony in North America. It recognizes the American Indian towns and cultures of the 17th century, calls attention to the historic and contemporary natural history of the Bay, complements the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and provides new opportunities for education, recreation, and heritage tourism in the Chesapeake Bay region. In providing a focus on and appreciation of the resources associated with Smith's voyages, the trail will help to facilitate protection of those resources.

Public and private organizations that have already contributed to create this unique Chesapeake Bay experience include:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation
www.cbf.org/johnsmith

The Chesapeake Bay Program
www.chesapeakebay.net

The Conservation Fund
www.conservationfund.org

Friends of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
www.friendsofthejohnsmithtrail.org

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
www.chesapeakebay.noaa.gov

National Geographic
www.nationalgeographic.com/chesapeake

Sultana Projects
www.sultanaprojects.org

Experience Captain John Smith's Adventures on the James:
www.virginia.org/johnsmithtrail



NPS/Starke Jett